



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE FORCES RESERVE
MARINE FORCES NORTH
2000 OPELOUSAS AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70114-1500

ForO 12733.1

G-1

OCT 18 2013

FORCE ORDER 12733.1

From: Commander
To: Distribution List

Subj: POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Ref: (a) Title 5 United States Code
(b) MCO P12000.11A

1. Situation. This Order is published to provide guidance regarding participation in political activities for all civilian employees of Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) and Marine Forces North (MARFORNORTH).

2. Mission. The Department of the Navy refrains from considering the political opinions or affiliations of applicants and employees in matters of employment except when membership in a political party or organization legally constitutes a disqualification for Federal Government employment.

3. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. The references and this Order provide a quick reference as to what political activities are acceptable for civilian employees of MARFORRES and MARFORNORTH.

(2) Concept of Operations. In 1939, Congress approved landmark legislation known as the Hatch Act to limit the political activities of Federal employees. In 1993, legislation was passed that substantially amended the Hatch Act. The Hatch Act Reform Amendments of 1993 permit most Federal employees to take an active part in partisan political management and partisan political campaigns. While Federal employees are still prohibited from seeking public office in partisan elections, most employees are free to work, while off duty, on the partisan campaigns of the candidates of their choice. Permitted and prohibited activities for employees who may engage in partisan activities are as follows:

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distribution is unlimited.

(a) Permitted Activities. The following is a list of permissible activities:

1. May be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections.
2. May register and vote as they choose.
3. May assist in voter registration drives.
4. May express opinions about candidates and issues.
5. May contribute money to political organizations.
6. May attend political fundraising functions.
7. May attend and be active at political rallies and meetings.
8. May join and be an active member of a political party or club.
9. May sign nominating petitions.
10. May campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments municipal ordinances.
11. May campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections.
12. May make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections.
13. May distribute campaign literature in partisan elections.
14. May hold office in political clubs or parties including serving as a delegate to a convention.

(b) Prohibited Activities. The following is a list of prohibited activities:

1. May not use their official authority to influence or interfere with an election.

2. May not solicit, accept or receive political contributions unless both individuals are members of the same Federal labor organization or employee organization and the one solicited is not a subordinate employee.

3. May not knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business before the agency.

4. May not engage in political activity while on duty.

5. May not engage in political activity in any government office.

6. May not engage in political activity while wearing an official uniform.

7. May not engage in political activity while using a government vehicle.

8. May not be candidates for public office in partisan elections.

b. Employees who intend to run for office in nonpartisan elections must submit a request for approval to the Commander, and must set forth specifically and in detail all information concerning the office involved. Such information will include, but is not limited to, whether the office is full or part-time, with or without compensation, and whether there is a possibility that the holding of the office will interfere with the regular and efficient discharge of the employee's Federal duties.

c. It is the responsibility of each employee concerned to ensure that outside activities, whether elective or volunteer, will not interfere with or adversely affect or reflect on performance of official duties.

d. Partisan Political Activity. Nothing in this Order shall be construed as permitting a Federal employee to engage in any partisan political activity prohibited by Section 7324 of reference (a).

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4. Administrative and Logistics. Recommendations concerning the contents of this Order may be forwarded to the Civilian Personnel Office.

5. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is applicable to all commands, organizations, units, and activities under the cognizance of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.



G. T. HABEL
Executive Director

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